



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

POTASSIUM METABOLISM IN HEALTH AND DISEASE. Howard L. Holley, M.D., Department of Medicine, University of Alabama; and Warner W. Carlson, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry, University of Alabama. Grune and Stratton, New York, 1955. 131 pages, \$4.50.

Although there is little that is new in this monograph, the normal control of potassium metabolism, and the factors in disease which may alter body potassium levels are presented moderately well. In certain areas the authors do not appear to have had broad grass roots' experience with certain types of potassium and electrolyte problems. In addition, the role of potassium in enzymatic activities related to glucose and protein metabolism, and the interrelationships of potassium with other ions, are stressed. Clinical symptomatology and findings, plus electrocardiographic changes of high and low serum potassium levels, and/or decreased total body potassium are presented well. The weakest part of the monograph is the section on treatment of potassium deficits which shows lack of extensive experience in the correction of such deficits, particularly by the parenteral intravenous route.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS IN MEDICAL PRACTICE. James E. Bryan, Administrator, Medical-Surgical Plan of New Jersey; Formerly Executive Officer, the Medical Society of New Jersey, Chairman of the Medical Society Executives Conference. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1955. 301 pages, \$5.00.

Since the third generation of Adam and Eve's offspring, homo sapiens has been blest or beset with relations. In the olden days they were referred to as rich or poor, but in the twentieth century a large number are made up of that peculiar entity known as "public." Public relations carries a host of definitions, the simplest one being "reputation." Reputation may be built or purchased, the former enduring and the latter evanescent. "The traditional ethics of the profession, its ancient ideal of service, its noble code of conduct—these are the immutable foundations upon which any public relations program must be based." The author uses these words in his introduction and refers to them many times in the succeeding chapters.

The personal relationship of doctor and patient, the financial relationship, the ethical, social and institutional relationships of the physician with his colleagues are dealt with. The relationship of physicians with prepaid medical care plans and finally the relationships of the physician with himself are dealt with.

The reading is not light, but there is no doubt that this book constitutes a mine of useful information for the young physician. The author is Administrator of the Blue Shield Plan in New Jersey and was formerly the Executive Secretary of the Medical Society of Westchester County for many years. He writes with clarity and sincerity. A frank discussion of corporate practice of medicine which appears in chapter nine will be of particular interest to all physicians in California, notably those on the full time staffs of non-profit private hospitals.

"The tendency of certain hospitals to engage full time salaried physicians and surgeons in communities where the profession has adequate personnel to provide equally competent staff on a visiting basis clearly interferes with the normal opportunities of physicians to achieve leadership and recognition according to their professional abilities . . . The physician, like any other man, cannot serve two masters. If he is an employee of the hospital, he must first do the bidding of the hospital, and then he is no longer primarily the servant of the patient. It seems to me that such practices are bad for the patient in the long run."

The author further states, "I do not see how anyone could seriously argue that it would benefit the people if the control of medical practice were to pass out of the hands of medical practitioners and into the hands of hospitals. Yet, that is the inevitable result of such a tendency as we are now witnessing in some large medical centers . . . The responsibility of the individual physician to the individual patient is direct, unassignable, inescapable and indivisible. It is supported and enforced by law and by universal public opinion."

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TEXTBOOK OF CHIROPODY—Second Edition. Margaret J. McKenzie Swanson, B.Litt., F.Ch.S., Co-Founder of Edinburgh Foot Clinic and School of Chiropody. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1954. 268 pages, \$5.00.

This book is, as the title states, primarily a textbook of chiropody for students of chiropody. In that sense it is quite complete and well illustrated. The author makes no attempt to cover the medical aspects of foot disease. Minor lesions which can be treated by the chiropodist are well described as well as orthodox methods applied by chiropody to correct these lesions. The treatment of club feet is not discussed nor are the various surgical procedures available for correcting foot disability considered.

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THE CITY OF HOPE. Samuel H. Golter. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 210 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y., 1954. 177 pages, \$3.50.

This is the story of the development of the hospital at Duarte, near Los Angeles, for the care of persons with tuberculosis and cancer. According to the author, about 40 years ago a young man of Jewish extraction died of pulmonary hemorrhage in a street in Los Angeles and following that incident funds were collected to house other unfortunate persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. "In 1913 two tents were set up, one for patients, the other for a nurse . . . such were the humble and humanitarian beginnings of the City of Hope."

The book is in the form of a letter from the author to his daughter; it deals with the author's early life in the Eastern part of the United States and then in Los Angeles. It tells the story of the extension of the work of the hospital from the care of tuberculosis to the care of cancer. The author

apparently regards leukemia as a disease separate from cancer and deals with it in a separate chapter. He is now the executive vice-president of the City of Hope and is, of course, an enthusiastic proponent of its program and its efforts.

Many of the patients at the City of Hope pay no fees and therefore, funds must be raised to defray the costs of their hospitalization. These funds are raised by various campaigns, some of them of highly sensational nature such as the October 1953 "Telethon." Whether these campaigns for a single institution conflict with those of the officially recognized agency attempting to deal with cancer research has been a matter of some debate and concern.

The hospital is operated under Jewish auspices, and reportedly has chartered auxiliaries all over the country. It apparently accepts patients without regard to creed or income and reflects in its growth the great development of that part of the state.

The book is illustrated with photographs of the hospital, its early staff, the author and his family and the more recently completed installation.

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TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE—By Various Authors—11th Edition. Edited by Sir John Conybeare, K.B.E., M.C., D.M.(Oxon.), F.R.C.P., Physician to Guy's Hospital, London; and W. M. Mann, M.D.(Lond.), F.R.C.P., Physician to Guy's Hospital, London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh and London, 1954. Distributed through Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore. 904 pages, \$8.00.

The eleventh edition of this standard text for English students appears just two years after the tenth (CALIFORNIA MEDICINE, 77:358, Nov. 1952) and shows comparatively little change.

The reviewer finds considerable fault with the portions of the book dealing with therapy—which are often several years behind modern medical practice. To illustrate, (page 67) tetanus toxoid is decried for active immunization against tetanus despite the tremendous experience of both allied and German armies in World War II, and the outworn aphorisms about prophylactic antiserum in small dosage (3,000 units) are repeated. Hexamethonium and pentamethonium are advertised as the hypotensive drugs in most common use and no mention is made of rauwolfia. There are appendices on the antibiotics and adrenal steroids but they are woefully inadequate.

The use and evaluation of diagnostic laboratory tests also leaves something to be desired: For example, the authors fail to point out the great advantages of the amylase test in the recognition of acute pancreatitis (page 369).

In general, this book does not measure up to one of several good texts on the practice of medicine.

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THE COAGULATION OF BLOOD—Methods of Study. Edited by Leandro M. Tocantins, M.D. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1955. 240 pages, \$5.75.

This volume was written principally by members of the Panel on Blood Coagulation of the National Research Council, and its purpose is to solidify into presentable, if only temporary form, the headlong river of coagulation terms and tests. Certainly the techniques that are enumerated and briefly described in this book were formerly widely scattered throughout the literature, and so a real service has been performed in this collection of procedural details. Some will object to the various choices of inclusion and exclusion which have been practiced here, but it is believed that this collation will be of great help to all but the most partisan workers. It should be especially helpful to newcomers to the field of coagulation research and save them much time in standardizing methods. In adherence to the avowed intention of the work as a laboratory guide,

there is no section on general discussion of blood coagulation and its disorders as a whole. Hence the book would not be a suitable purchase for practitioners and students, for whom a more general work such as Biggs and MacFarlane's "Human Blood Coagulation and Its Disorders," (C. C. Thomas, 1953), would be more in order. But as a manual of techniques in blood coagulation, plainly and accurately set forth, this volume will find a place in most medical laboratories.

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THE HISTORY AND CONQUEST OF COMMON DISEASES. Edited by Walter R. Bett, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.R.S.L., F.S.A. Scott. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla., 1954. 334 pages, \$4.00.

This attractive book consists of a series of articles by various authorities on a group of diseases for the most part unrelated except that they occur frequently. Thus we have acute and chronic communicable diseases, heart disease, Bright's disease, gallstones, appendicitis, epilepsy, cancer, and various endocrine disorders. The historical accounts are especially stimulating and there are excellent selected bibliographies. It is surprising how much of interest and importance can be told in a short space, and the book as well as being informative makes delightful reading.

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THE YEAR BOOK OF DRUG THERAPY (1954-1955 Year Book Series). Edited by Harry Beckman, M.D., Director, Departments of Pharmacology, Marquette University Schools of Medicine and Dentistry. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois Street, Chicago, 1955. 592 pages, \$6.00.

The Year Book of Drug Therapy continues to be a valuable book to keep the practitioner up-to-date on his therapeutics. This year's edition gives greatest emphasis to the antibiotics with the subjects of chest diseases and hypertension also receiving considerable study.

The editor's introduction serves as an excellent summary of the year's accomplishments and is commended to the reader.

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DEPRESSION. Edited by Paul H. Hoch, M.D., New York State Psychiatric Institute, College of Physicians, Columbia University; and Joseph Zubin, Ph.D., New York State Psychiatric Institute, Department of Psychology, Columbia University. The Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Meeting of the American Psychopathological Association. Held in New York City, June, 1952. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1954. 277 pages, \$5.50.

The content of this volume is primarily concerned with psychopathological problems associated with anxiety and depression. There is an excellent review by Franz J. Kallmann concerning the genetic principles in manic-depressive psychosis. That heredity may play an important role in the development of this mental illness is evidenced by his report concerning 27 monozygotic and 55 dizygotic twin indexed pairs with a total of 206 siblings and 16 half-siblings. The expectancy of manic-depressive psychosis varied from 16.7 ± 3.4 per cent for the half-sibs, to 22.7 ± 3.4 and 25.5 ± 6.1 per cent for the siblings and dizygotic co-twins, respectively, and to 100.0 per cent for the one-egg twin partners. As an aid in the early differential diagnosis between schizophrenia and manic-depressive psychosis, as well as between schizophrenia and psychoneurosis, Lewis and Piotrowski propose ten specific clinical psychiatric signs and they point out that nearly all areas of diagnosis were made not because of insufficient observation of symptoms but because of failure to interpret the diagnostic significance of the symptoms. Papers on the biochemical aspects of depression are presented by Max Reiss and Warren M. Sperry—the latter emphasizing that "Although mental disease presents, by far, the biggest problem in the field of medicine in this